2012 – Water Quality Report

Throughout 2012, drinking water in the City of Wenatchee met or surpassed all State and Federal standards for safety and quality.
So enjoy a glass of the excellent water delivered to your home every day by the City of Wenatchee since 1912.

ATENCION: Este documento contiene información muy importante referente a su agua. Por lo tanto deseamos compartir los resultados. Fue aprobado por los Departamentos del Estado y Gobierno Federal, pasando todas las pruebas para el año 2012 y calificó como saludable y apta para nuestro consumo. Si necesita más información, por favor llamar a la ciudad, al teléfono 888-6200 y con mucho gusto contestaremos sus preguntas.

Water Bill Questions 888-6200
Water Quality Questions or Concerns 888-3235
Schedule to Have Your Water Shutoff for Repairs 888-6200

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Our Drinking Water Source

Located just north of Rocky Reach Dam, the Eastbank Aquifer is the primary source of drinking water for the City of Wenatchee, East Wenatchee Water District and the Chelan County PUD. Aquifers, such as the Eastbank Aquifer, act as a natural filter and underground storage for water. The Eastbank Aquifer is recharged by the Columbia River, and as indicated by the high quality water it produces, the aquifer is an excellent filter. The Aquifer currently supplies an average of 10 million gallons per day to Wenatchee Valley residents.

The city operates the water utility under regulations set forth by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Environmental Protection Agency under the Public Water Supply ID# 943507. To ensure that safe drinking water is delivered everyday to your home, the City of Wenatchee administers a number of programs required by the DOH including Cross Connection Control, Water-use Efficiency, and Wellhead Protection. While the Eastbank Aquifer has been rated as having low susceptibility to contamination, all of these programs work together to maintain the high quality water every day.

Our system consists of the Regional Supply system, four reservoirs, two booster pump stations and 104.2 miles of pipe that make up the distribution transmission network. The water service boundary predominately reflects the city limits existing in 1979.

Educational Information from the Environmental Protection Agency

As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that can occur in untreated water include: microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use, and radioactive materials. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline. (1-800-426-4791)

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (**1-800-426-4791**) or on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Water Treatment

Chlorination is the only treatment required. Chlorine is added at the source and acts as a disinfectant to protect against contamination from harmful bacteria. The chlorine levels are regularly monitored at the source and throughout the water system. During 2012 the average chlorine in the water system was 0.26 ppm. In 2012 the lowest value within the system was 0.08 ppm and the highest value was 0.47 ppm. If you are sensitive to the taste or odor of the chlorine, try placing a pitcher of tap water in your refrigerator overnight before drinking it.

Lead in Drinking Water

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Get involved …

The Wenatchee City Council meets on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 5:15 pm in the Council Chambers, located at City Hall at 129 South Chelan Avenue in Wenatchee.

The following table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2012 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The table also lists contaminants that were not detected but may be of interest to the consumer.

Substance	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Result	Violation	Sample Date	Likely Sources
At the Groundwater Source - EPA Regulated						
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	**<0.2**	**No**	2011	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	1	N/A	**<0.2**	**No**	2011	Presence of suspended/collodial materials
At the Groundwater Source - State Regulated						
Conductivity (umhos/cm)	700	700	**173**	**No**	2011	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness (mg/L)	N/A	N/A	**77.1**	**No**	2011	Naturally occurring
In the Distribution System						
Total Coliform (No. of positive samples)	1	0	**0**	**No**	2012	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform & E. coli (No. of positive samples)	0	0	**0**	**No**	2012	Human and animal fecal waste
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	**0.26**	**No**	2012	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	**6.1**	**No**	2012	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	48	**ND**	**No**	2012	By-product of drinking water chlorination
At the Customer's Tap	**Action Level**	**Number of sites sampled**	**90th percent value**	**Violation**	**Sample Date**	**Likely Sources**
Copper (ppm)	1.3	30	**0.588**	**No**	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	30	**3**	**No**	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing

- Not all compounds are tested for every year. State and Federal regulations dictate which contaminants the City must test for and how often. The results presented above represent the most current data for the source and the water system. All testing was performed by state certified laboratories.
- In 2008 and 2009 the source water was tested for 87 synthetic organic contaminants which included herbicides, PCB's, pesticides, and many other chemicals along with 60 volatile organic chemicals, such as solvents and petroleum products. None of these potential contaminants were detected in the drinking water.

Definitions:

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not Detected

NTU: Stands for **N**ephelometric **T**urbidity **U**nit which is the unit of measure for the clarity of water.

ppb: Parts of contaminant per billion parts of water, also the same as micrograms per liter.

ppm: Parts of contaminant per million parts of water, also the same as milligrams per liter.

Umhos/cm: micromhos per centimeter, the unit of measure for the ability of water to carry an electric current.

Lead and Copper 90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Maximum Contaminant Levels are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

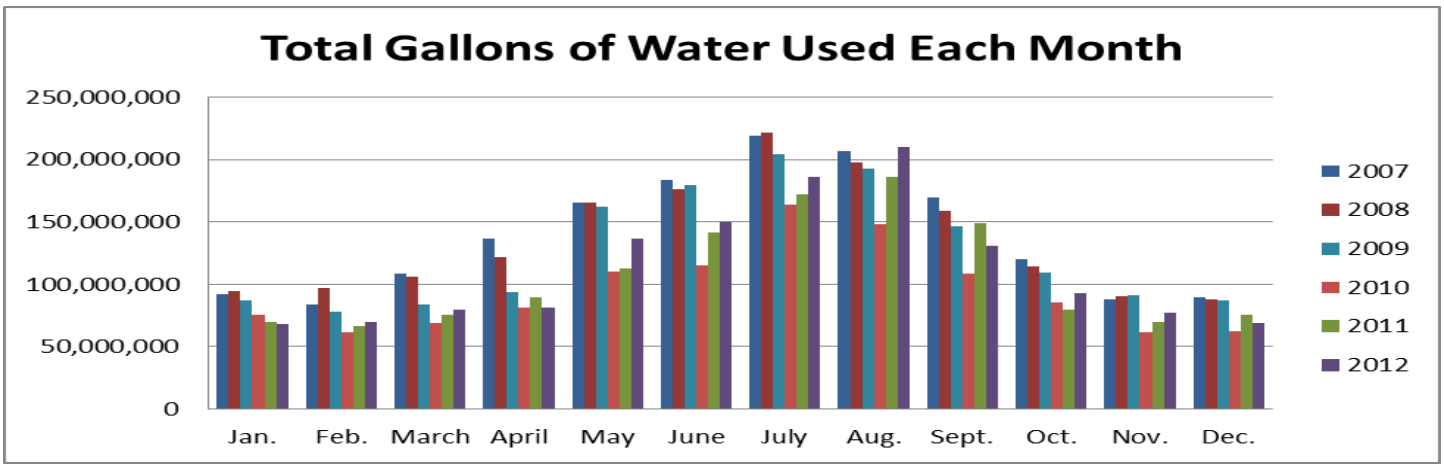
Remember...**Tampering with a water meter chamber or the equipment inside is against the law.**

This includes just opening the lid to look inside!

If you suspect a problem in the chamber or need the water shut off, please call 888-6200.

When planning on having the city shut off the water at the meter, please note that call out fees will be billed to your account if this is done outside regular business hours.

The following graph shows how water usage in the City of Wenatchee changes with the changing seasons. The amount of water used in August is more than double the water used in January. Landscape irrigation accounts for a large part of this increase.



What You Pay For Your Water

2013 Water Service Charges For Single Family Residence, Duplex and Multi-Family		
Meter size	Monthly Minimum Charge	Consumption Rate (per 100 Cubic Feet*)
¾"	$10.07	$1.630
1"	$17.92	$1.630
1 ½"	$30.43	$1.630
2"	$46.79	$1.630

* 100 Cubic Feet is equal to 748 gallons

By comparison …

- 100 cubic feet of pop (at $0.99/2 liter) would cost $1,401.59
- 100 cubic feet of gas (at $3.75/gallon) would cost $2,805
- 100 cubic feet of bottled water (at $0.99/ 20 oz.) would cost $4,739.33

Every Drop Counts

As communities have grown and the demand for safe drinking water has increased, the approach to water conservation has changed. The new emphasis is on using water efficiently before water supplies are diminished to a point where water conservation is required. The City of Wenatchee is committed to ensuring that current and future water needs are met for area citizens.

For more information visit:
www.wenatcheewa.gov/Water_Wise

Water Use Efficiency – Annual Report Summary

The City of Wenatchee is required to submit an Annual Water Use Efficiency Report to the Washington State Department of Health every year by July 1st. This report provides information to the state about the amount of water the city purchased from the Regional System for use within our water system, the authorized consumption and the distribution system leakage.

Our goals are to reduce seasonal outdoor water use by 2-3% and to reduce distribution system leakage to 10% or less by December 31, 2013. We are working to reach these goals by providing education to our customers and implementing a water loss control plan within our system.

The Distribution System Leakage for 2012 was calculated to be 13.6 % and the resulting 3-year average was 6.2 %.

To view the full report visit our website:
www.wenatcheewa.gov/Water_Wise

Tips For Reducing Your Summer Water Bill

- Every spring check and fix leaking faucets and hoses.
- Aerating your lawn helps the water soak in rather than run-off.
- Throughout the season adjust your watering schedule to match the change in temperature.
- Don't run your sprinklers when it is raining.
- Mulch-mow your lawn. Setting the mower height at 2 inches and leaving the clippings on the lawn helps retain moisture.
- Set a timer to remind you when it is time to turn the water off to avoid overwatering.
- Water your lawn during the cooler hours of the day to reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation.
- Choose sprinklers with spray patterns that match the shape of your lawn or garden area.
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering the street, driveways and sidewalks.
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems.
- Group plants with similar water needs together. Pick low-water plants and explore Xeriscaping for landscape ideas.
- Sweep your sidewalk and drive-way instead of hosing them off.